

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 14-27 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 28-49 are added. The following is the status of the claims of the above-captioned application, as amended.

Claims 1-27 (Canceled).

Claim 28 (New). An animal feed additive comprising (a) at least one purified acid-stable protease and (b) one or more fat soluble vitamins and/or water soluble vitamins, and (c) one or more trace minerals, wherein the protease is a subtilisin and/or has less than 10% residual activity when inhibited with a molar excess *Streptomyces* subtilisin inhibitor.

Claim 29 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the acid stability of the protease means that the activity of the pure protease, in a dilution corresponding to  $A_{280}=1.0$ , is at least 40% of the reference activity of the protease, wherein the activity of the protease is measured after two hours incubation at a temperature of 37°C in a buffer of 100 mM succinic acid, 100 mM HEPES, 100 mM CHES, 100 mM CABS, 1 mM  $\text{CaCl}_2$ , 150 M KCl, and 0.01% Triton X-100 (pH 3.5), and wherein the reference activity is measured after two hours incubation at a temperature of 5°C in the same buffer but adjusted to pH 9.0, wherein the activity and reference activity are measured after these incubations, at 25°C in Suc-AAPF-pNA (pH 9.0).

Claim 30 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 29, wherein the activity of the protease is at least 50% of the reference activity.

Claim 31 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 30, wherein the activity of the protease is at least 60% of the reference activity.

Claim 32 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease has a pH optimum in the range of 6.0-11.0.

Claim 33 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus* sp., NCIMB 40484 protease.

Claim 34 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus alcalophilus* NCIMB 10438 protease.

Claim 35 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is a *Fusarium oxysporum* IFO 4471 protease.

Claim 36 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is a *Paecilomyces lilacinus* CBS 102449 protease.

Claim 37 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium chrysogenum* ATCC 48272 protease.

Claim 38 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium kiliense* ATCC 20338 protease.

Claim 39 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, wherein the amount of the purified protease corresponds to 0.01-200 mg protease protein per kg feed.

Claim 40 (New). An animal feed additive of claim 28, for addition to an animal feed having a crude protein content of 50-800 g/kg.

Claim 41 (New). The animal feed additive of claim 28, which further comprises at least one enzyme selected from the group consisting of phytase, xylanase, galactanase, and beta-glucanase.

Claim 42 (New). A method for the improving the nutritional value of a vegetable protein or protein source, comprising adding an animal feed additive of claim 28 to the vegetable protein or protein source.

Claim 43 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the vegetable protein comprises soybean.

Claim 44 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus sp.*, NCIMB 40484 protease.

Claim 45 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is a *Bacillus alcalophilus*, NCIMB 10438 protease.

Claim 46 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is a *Fusarium oxysporum*, IFO 4471 protease.

Claim 47 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is a *Paecilomyces lilacinus*, CBS 102449 protease.

Claim 48 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium chrysogenum*, ATCC 48272 protease.

Claim 49 (New). The method of claim 42, wherein the protease is an *Acremonium kiliense*, ATCC 20338 protease.